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ABSTRACT

In recounting the sensational national controversy regarding the recent proposed National History Standards, the book explores three related themes that provided background for the controversy. The volume examines the blossoming of historical research, writing, and teaching of history in the 20th century with more diverse, more methodologically sophisticated, and more committed historians wishing to provide an inclusive U.S. history and a globe-encircling world history. The book also shows that the recent war over the National History Standards has had many precedents in earlier decades of the 20th century with intellectual and academic debate about the true nature of history. The book also examines the "long walk" that academic historians took away from the school in the decades following World War I causing an estrangement between scholars and public education professionals and a lack of awareness of the broadening research of the past. The 10 chapters in the book include: (1) "In the Matter of History"; (2) "Hallowed History, New History"; (3) "Postwar Paradoxes"; (4) "Year of Ferment"; (5) "History, Culture, and Politics"; (6) "History Wars Abroad"; (7) "Setting National History Standards"; (8) "The Right-Wing Assault"; (9) "Inside the Beltway"; and (10) "Lessons from the History War." (EH)

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